



February 2015 / Issue N°3

## CHAIR'S WELCOME



At its next meeting in Brussels on [23-24 February 2015](#), the ENVI Committee will cover a broad range of issues. Members will vote on a draft recommendation on an amendment to the fuel quality and renewable energy directives (ILUC) and a

draft report on a market stability reserve for the EU ETS. The Committee will also vote on a draft report regarding the human consumption of caseins and an opinion on the new EU forest strategy.

Additionally, Members will consider draft reports on emissions from medium combustion plants and on radioactive contamination of food and feed, as well as an opinion on the production and labelling of organic products. A draft report on improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance will also be debated.

Members will hold an exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on the 2015 Commission Work Programme. Finally, the ENVI and AGRI Committees will jointly host a public hearing on the Cloning of animals for farming purposes.

[Giovanni La Via](#)

## MEETING PREVIEW

### **Approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption and repealing Council Directive 83/417/EEC**

Adoption of [draft report](#)

The Commission published its proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to **caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption** and repealing Council Directive 83/417/EEC in March 2014. In its proposal, the Commission suggests to replace it with a new Directive to **adapt existing provisions** to further the development of legislation in the field of food law and adjust the composition requirements of edible caseins to the **international standard**.

In his report, the Rapporteur broadly **endorses the proposal**. In order to "fine-tune" the proposal in some aspects, the Rapporteur tabled 5 amendments. In particular, he suggests that the power to adopt delegated acts in order to adapt the Annexes should not be conferred on the Commission for an unlimited period of time, but rather for 5 years. In addition, he proposes to set an ambitious yet realistic date for the implementation of this Directive in the Member States (6 months after entry into force of the Directive instead of 31 March 2015). Finally, the Rapporteur suggests a couple of technical amendments in order to ensure that the Directive is perfectly aligned to the Codex Alimentarius.

In ENVI, 9 [amendments](#) have been tabled (in addition to the 5 AMs tabled by the Rapporteur).

Rapporteur: [La Via](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)  
Shadows: [Melior](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE), [Omarjee](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

### **Establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC**

Adoption of [draft report](#)



The Commission proposes to make **structural changes** to the **emissions trading system** (ETS) to address the **surplus of emission**

**allowances** which has been building up in recent years (at present estimated at over two billion). In particular, the Commission proposes that a **market stability reserve** would be created from 2021, into which allowances would be placed and from which allowances would be released, under certain conditions.

The Rapporteur supports in principle the Commission proposal, but **proposes a number of changes**: to place the allowances backloaded to 2019 and 2020 (totalling 900 million) directly into the reserve; provision for the Commission to propose appropriate carbon leakage arrangements for the 4th phase; and to set aside 30 million in allowances for low-carbon technology innovation if the total number of allowances in the reserve in year x-1 is higher than 400 million.

Over 200 [amendments](#) have been tabled, mainly relating to the date of operation of the reserve,



management of backloaded and unallocated allowances, carbon leakage provisions post-2020 and the conditions and thresholds in relation to which the reserve should operate.

Rapporteur: [Belet](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Groote](#) (S&D), [Duncan](#) (ECR), [Gerbrandy](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

## A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector

Adoption of [draft opinion](#)



The Commission Communication, adopted in September 2013, sets an **EU Forest Strategy** which identifies key principles and priority areas for

action in order to strengthen **sustainable forest management**, improve **competitiveness** and create **jobs**, especially in rural areas, while at the same time encouraging forest protection and delivery of **ecosystem services**.

The rapporteur welcomes the new strategy and calls for: a) including **payments for environmental services** as incentives for sustainable forest management which positively impacts fire prevention, biodiversity and preservation; b) use of **agritechniques** which can minimise natural disasters as fires storms and forest pests; c) applying a **bio-economy concept** in promoting the economic viability of forestry chains with greater support for non-timber forest products; d) more efficient use and reuse of **forest materials**; d) set up and implementation of **forest management plans** in a less bureaucratic ways that take account of proportionality and 'think small first' principles.

Some 140 [AMs](#) have been tabled and 9 Compromises negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Gambús](#) (PPE) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Brannen](#) (S&D), [Dohrmann](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Kyllönen](#) (GUE/NGL), [Škrlec](#) (Greens/EFA), [Mazuronis](#) (EFDD)

## Amendment to the fuel quality directive and the renewable energy directive (Indirect Land Use Change)

Adoption of [draft recommendation for second reading](#)

The Commission proposal amends the Fuel Quality Directive 98/70/EC (FQD) and the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (RED) with the aim to foster the **transition to biofuels** delivering substantial GHG savings including ILUC emissions while protecting

existing investments. The aims are to limit the contribution of conventional biofuels towards the attainment of **targets in the RED**, to improve **GHG performance** of biofuel production processes, to encourage a greater market penetration of **advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels** and to report the estimated ILUC emissions.

In his draft recommendation, the Rapporteur takes Parliament's first reading position as the basis of the amendments tabled, as regards in particular setting the "**cap**" on the contribution of first-generation biofuels to the **RED target to 6%**, ILUC emissions in the **calculation of the GHG savings**, and reintroducing a **binding 2020 sub-target** for advanced biofuels.

451 amendments have been tabled to all aspects of Council's position, including 76 in the Rapporteur's draft recommendation. A set of compromise amendments on the most sensitive issues has been negotiated.

Rapporteur: [Torvalds](#) (ALDE) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Fjellner](#) (EPP), [Gasbarra](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Konečná](#) (GUE), [Eickhout](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)  
 Amendments: [77-195](#), [196-316](#), [317-451](#)

## Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants



Consideration of [draft report](#)

The Commission proposal puts forward provisions to limit emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter

from medium combustion plants (with a rated thermal input between 1 and 50 MW). It is designed to reduce pollution significantly by setting **limit values for new and existing installations**, together with a simple registration scheme, in order to help deliver a significant part of Member States' **emission reduction obligations** and avoid possible trade-offs between air quality and increased biomass use.

In his draft report, the Rapporteur tables amendments aimed at **avoiding double regulation and excessive administrative burden**: for instance, to this end, the scope of the proposed Directive and of the existing *acquis* are clarified, the emission limit values are amended based on the principle of cost efficiency, and a further distinction between categories of plants according to their rated thermal input is introduced.



The deadline for amendments is 5 March and the vote in ENVI is scheduled for 13-14 April 2015.

Rapporteur: [Grzyb](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Paolucci](#) (S&D), [Wiśniewska](#) (ECR), [Huitema](#) (ALDE),  
[Rodríguez-Rubio](#) (GUE), [Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

### **Maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed following a nuclear accident or any other case of radiological emergency**

Consideration of [draft report](#)



The proposed Council Regulation replaces Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87, established in 1987 in the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster. The proposal lays down the maximum

permitted levels of radioactive contamination of food and feed that may be placed on the market in the EU following a nuclear accident or any other radiological emergency and sets out the procedures and implementing powers for rendering the pre-established maximum levels applicable.

The rapporteur calls for a change of the legal basis to the articles on public health and the internal market in the Lisbon Treaty, thus fully involving Parliament as co-legislator under the ordinary legislative procedure rather than as a consultative body only. The draft report also seeks to strengthen the requirements for the Commission to review and inform about the implementing measures adopted in relation to a nuclear accident or other radiological emergency, as well as to update the regulation's annexes prescribing the maximum permitted levels and list of minor foods.

The deadline for amendments is 4 March, with a vote in ENVI foreseen for 6-7 May 2015.

Rapporteur: [Herranz García](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Tănăsescu](#) (S&D), [Girling](#) (ECR), [Paulsen](#) (ALDE), [Juaristi Abaunz](#) (GUE/NGL), [Rivasi](#) (Greens/EFA), [Pedicini](#) (EFDD)

### **Safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance**

Consideration of [draft report](#)

The Council Recommendation of 9 June 2009 (2009/C 151/01) on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections called for the implementation of a series of measures to improve patient safety in the EU. The Commission published in June 2014 its second report on the implementation of the Recommendation.

In his draft report, the Rapporteur welcomes the latest measures put in place by Member States. He notes, however, that the implementation



report still shows uneven progress among Member States, and regrets that some Member States have obviously slowed down implementation of the Council recommendations because of financial constraints resulting from the economic crisis. He also welcomes the work of ECDC, EFSA and EMA and calls for responsible, well-targeted use of antibiotics in both human and veterinary medicine. Moreover, he calls on the co-legislator, when negotiating the proposal for a regulation on veterinary medicinal products 2014/0257 (COD), to make recommendations in line with the One Health principle.

The deadline for amendments is 4 March 2015, with a vote in ENVI envisaged for 26 March 2015.

Rapporteur: [Pedicini](#) (EFDD) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Busoi](#) (ALDE), [Schaldenmose](#) (S&D), [Swinburne](#) (ECR),  
[Paulsen](#) (ALDE), [Boylan](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA)

### **Organic production and labelling of organic products, amendment to Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council Official Controls Regulation and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007**

Consideration of [draft opinion](#)



In its proposal, adopted on 24 March 2014, the Commission suggests to improve current legislation applicable to organic production and labelling of organic products. The Commission proposes to 1) repeal Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic

production and labelling of organic products and replace it with a new Regulation and 2) to amend Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX on official controls (currently still under negotiation). The proposal is accompanied by an impact assessment and an Action plan for the future of organic production in the European Union.

The Rapporteur for opinion tabled 47 amendments focusing on increased flexibility (in particular in relation to the mandatory use of organic seeds, rules for greenhouse cultivation and the prohibition of mixed farms), additional animal welfare elements, the introduction of the polluter pays principle as





well as a self-control and external auditing system (according to which the auditor would be held financially liable in case of non-compliance).

The deadline for amendments is 4 March 2015, and the vote in ENVI is foreseen for 26 March 2015.

Rapporteur: [Pietikäinen](#) (EPP) [Procedure file](#)  
 Shadows: [Schaldenmose](#) (S&D), [Nicholson](#) (ECR), [Jäättteenmäki](#) (ALDE), [Eck](#) (GUE), [Auken](#) (Greens/EFA), [Evi](#) (EFDD)

#### **Exchange of views with Mr Karmenu Vella, commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**



The Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries was invited for an exchange of views with the ENVI Committee. He will focus his statement on the **initiatives for 2015** in the broader context of the **7th EAP**.

Topics for discussion may include:

- **Commission Work Programme 2015** - and in particular the way forward on the Waste and Air Quality proposals
- Initiatives related to **Natural Capital Year**
- Communication on **Sustainable Development Goals**.

#### **Public hearing on Cloning of animals for farming purposes**

Draft [programme](#) for the hearing



The aim of this hearing is to have an exchange of views between MEPs and experts as regards the **Commission's proposals on the cloning of animals**

for food purposes:

- proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the cloning of animals of the bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species kept and reproduced for farming purposes (COM(2013)0892, 2013/0433(COD));
- proposal for a Council Directive on the placing on the market of food from animal clones (COM(2013)0893, 2013/0434(APP)).

The proposals prohibit the use of the cloning technique in the EU for farm animals, the import of animal clones and the marketing of food from animal clones.

The programme of the hearing is structured as follows:

- a. an introductory part with **institutional representatives**: Juris Štālmeistars, Latvian Deputy Permanent Representative and Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health & Food Safety;
- b. a first panel on the **impact on the agri-food business operators and animal welfare**, consisting of presentations from three experts followed by questions & answers and open discussion;
- c. a second panel on **scientific and ethical aspects** and consumer perspectives, consisting of presentations from three experts followed by questions & answers and open discussion.



## NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

### European Environment Agency (EEA)



Energy support policies; putting the EU on a low carbon path? European countries have increased renewable energy's share of energy consumption in recent years, in part thanks to support mechanisms for the renewables sector. The report finds that many energy support policies could be better focused to lead the EU more effectively to decarbonise the energy sector. [More](#)

### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



Implementing its new compliance check strategy, ECHA starts publishing a list of likely cases for compliance checks. At the same time, the Agency tightens and clarifies deadlines for dossier updates. The goal is to increase efficiency and transparency in dossier evaluation and focus on those substances that matter the most for human health and the environment. [More](#)

### European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Now that Seasonal influenza is currently "progressing at full pace" in the EU according to ECDC's experts. Find the latest state of play on the spread of this virus as well as a 2014 report on "Trends in sexually transmitted infections" on ECDC's [web site](#).

### European Medicines Agency (EMA)



The ECDC/EFSA/EMA published the first joint report on an integrated analysis of the consumption of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from humans and food-producing animals. The report will inform the European Commission's action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance and the data from the report will contribute to establishing strong methodologies and priorities in the fight against the development of antimicrobial resistance. [More](#)

### European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



In 2013, EFSA published a report on a systematic review of studies published between 2006 and 2012 which showed a statistically significant association between exposure to pesticides and health outcomes such as liver cancer, breast cancer, type II diabetes, childhood leukaemia and Parkinson's disease. EFSA met stakeholders on 18 February to gather input for its investigations into the possible effects of pesticide exposure on human health. The meeting focused on issues surrounding pesticide epidemiology. The discussions will feed into an EFSA scientific opinion that aims to address methodological limitations in epidemiological studies and recommend ways of improving the studies so that they can be integrated into regulatory pesticide risk assessment. [More](#)

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#### Do you need more information?

Contact the ENVI Secretariat: [envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:envi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu) or visit the [website](#) of the ENVI Committee.

#### Next meeting of the ENVI Committee

9 March 2015 (Strasbourg)

18-19 March 2015 (Brussels)

See also the [2015 meeting dates](#) for future meetings.

#### Further information sources

The EP Policy Departments publish studies, notes, information notes and workshop proceedings; to contact them, write to [Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:Poldep-Economy-Science@europarl.europa.eu). The EP Library regularly prepares briefings summarising information related to topical subjects. Find the latest updates via the links [briefings](#) and [blog](#).

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